

Hawaii State Department of Defense

pupukahi

pupukahi: "harmoniously united"

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A Kauai County Fire Fighter conducts a briefing on Hazmat conditions to a gathering of first responders during Kauai County Exercise 2017, Pacific Missile Range Facility, Kauai, Aug. 30, 2017. KCE17 was a Hazmat threat and response exercise that brought together federal, state, and county agencies to respond to simulated CBRNE incidents. (U.S. Air National Guard photo by Tech. Sgt. Andrew Jackson)

Hawaii National Guard Hazmat Specialists Sharpen Skills on Garden Isle

154th Wing Public Affairs - Story by Senior Airman Orlando Corpuz - Thursday, August 31, 2017

Hazmat specialists from the Hawaii National Guard's 93rd Civil Support Team, took their unique capabilities to the "garden isle" of Kauai to participate in Kauai County Exercise 2017 [KCE17], Aug. 28-30.

Held primarily on the U.S. Navy's Pacific Missile Range Facility [PMRF], KCE17 is a Chemical, Biological, Radiological, Nuclear, Explosive [CBRNE] threat and response exercise.

The three-day training event tested the coordination between federal, state, county, and non-governmental units responding to natural or man-made Hazmat incidents.

A host of first responders ranging from Kauai County Police and Fire departments, Hawaii Department of Health, PMRF, Kauai Emergency

Management Agency, and CST units from Hawaii, Guam, Alaska, and Utah National Guards came together to practice and validate the tactics, techniques, and procedures needed to effectively respond to a real world CBRNE incident.

"We are here to support the first responders in the event of a catastrophic event," said U.S. Air Force Lt. Col. Alvin Sato, commander, 93rd CST. "Working collaboratively with the first responders...the more times we work with them, the more we understand each other's strengths and weaknesses."

Incident command during a domestic CBRNE event would fall to civilian authorities. It's the job of the 93rd CST and the 57 other CST units spread throughout the nation, to support civil authorities by identifying CBRNE

substances, assessing current and projected consequences, and advising on response measures.

Large exercises such as KCE17 are held throughout the year within different counties with planning starting one year in advance.

PMRF, with its large area and multitude of structures allowed exercise planners to develop complex and challenging scenarios. Simulated drug cooking labs, hostile personnel, and bunkers with possible anti-personnel traps were some of the challenges posed to first responders.

"The exercise gave us the opportunity to push our new guys as well as our seasoned personnel," said Tech. Sgt. Noah Raymond, Recon Team Leader, *Continued on page 2*